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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Algeria, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Canada, Denmark, Dominica, Egypt, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Nauru, Nicaragua, Panama, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Suriname, Sweden and Tuvalu: draft resolution

Emergency assistance to Belize

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 45/185 of 21 December 1990, 46/149 of 18 December 1991, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 55/165 of 14 December 2000,

Having been made aware of the extensive damage caused by powerful hurricane Iris during its landfall and passage through Belize on 8 October 2001,

Mindful of the human suffering caused by the displacement of thousands of people and the disrupted delivery of health and social services,

Aware of the devastation to the infrastructure of southern Belize and to the agricultural, fisheries and tourism sectors of Belize,

Conscious of the negative ecological impact of the hurricane to the coastal region and the inland rainforest,

Noting the enormous efforts required to alleviate the devastation caused by this natural disaster,

Cognizant of the efforts of the Government and people of Belize to relieve the suffering of the victims of hurricane Iris,

Conscious of the rapid response being made by the Government of Belize, the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to provide relief,

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Recalling the international strategy for disaster reduction and, in this regard, underlining the importance of efforts aimed at strengthening early warning, prevention and preparedness mechanisms for natural disasters and measures to strengthen capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, with an emphasis on risk reduction,

Aware that the extent of the disaster and its medium-term and long-term effects will require, as a complement to the efforts being made by the Government and people of Belize, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral cooperation in order to facilitate the transition from the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas to the process of reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and people of Belize;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States of the international community, international agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief assistance to Belize;

3. *Urges* Member States, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of Belize;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions, agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of Belize in identifying medium-term and long-term needs and in mobilizing resources, as well as to help with the efforts towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas in Belize;

5. *Encourages* the Government of Belize, in conjunction with relevant partners, further to develop strategies aimed at preventing and mitigating natural disasters, in accordance with the international strategy for disaster reduction;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Belize.